

REMARKS

The Office Action has alleged that claims 1-19 comprise two distinct inventions: Claims 1-9 and claims 10-19. Applicants hereby provisionally elects claims 1-9 for prosecution. Applicant has also added new claim 20, which is generic to both sets of claims.

Restriction Requirement

Response to the restriction requirement mailed on October 3, 2006, Applicants hereby elect the invention of claims 1-9, without traverse. Non-elected claims 10-19 are tentatively withdrawn from consideration. This election is made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected inventions.

Applicant does note, however, that the MPEP requires that no such election or restriction be required, when the application can be searched and examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Applicant believed that all claims 1-19 could have been so examined in this application. Applicant understands that, by advancing this restriction, the Examiner acknowledges that any prior art used to reject the elected claims will not be used to reject claims of other group in any ensuing divisional application, because any such rejection would be tantamount to an admission that the examination of those claims could have proceeded with the current claims, with no undue burden to the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

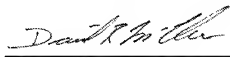
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that election/restriction requirement have been satisfied without traverse. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 20-0778

Respectfully submitted,

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